



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **District Man Sentenced to More Than 12 Years in Prison On Manslaughter Charge In June 2009 Stabbing**

WASHINGTON - Bernard Gayles, 40, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced today to a prison term of 12 years and three months for the June 2009 stabbing death of another man in Southeast Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Gayles pled guilty in February 2011 to voluntary manslaughter while armed. He was sentenced in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Honorable Lynn Leibovitz.

The victim, Nathaniel Hall, 54, had previously been incarcerated and, for a brief period in 2009, he was residing with a woman in an apartment in the 800 block of Barnaby Street SE. Sometime prior to June 13, 2009, Hall was told to leave the apartment because of his jail past. That day, about 5:15 p.m., Gayles knocked on the apartment door, angry at Hall. He then stabbed Hall multiple times before leaving. Hall was subsequently pronounced dead.

Hall's remains were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Maryland. The cause of death was determined to be multiple stab wounds.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the work of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detectives Joshua Branson, Norma Horne, James Wilson, Anthony Green, and Gus Giannakoulis, of the Violent Crime Branch, along with Mobile Crime Officer Ronald Royster. He also commended Paralegal Specialist Kelly Margaret Blakeney and Victim Witness Advocate Meshall Thomas. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Edward Burley and Glenn Kirschner, who investigated and indicted the case, and Charles W. Cobb, who prosecuted the case through today's sentencing.

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